

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Plaintiff,
v.
ALAN LEWIS MEIRHOFER,
Defendant.

| NO. CR24-132 JHC

DISCOVERY PROTECTIVE ORDER

ALAN LEWIS MEIRHOFER,
Defendant

This matter, having come to the Court's attention on the parties' joint motion for a discovery protective order, Dkt. # 26, and the Court, having considered the same, and being fully advised in this matter, pursuant to Fed. R. Crim P. 16(d)(1), the Court enters the following PROTECTIVE ORDER:

1. **Protected Material.** For purposes of this Order, “Protected Materials” shall include, voluminous documents containing PII, witness statements, and death investigation records pertaining to a minor.

2. **Designation of Protected Material.** The Protected Material shall be designated by the government, on the material itself, in a placeholder if the electronic file cannot be marked (as is the case with certain native files), or on a physical label affixed to a disk or other media, using the following designation “PROTECTED MATERIAL.”

1 The failure to designate any materials as Protected shall not constitute a waiver of a
2 party's assertion that the materials are covered by this Protective Order. If material is
3 later found to be covered by this Protective Order, the government will re-produce a
4 properly designated copy of the material.

5 **3. Production of Protected Material to the Defense.** The United States will
6 make available copies of the Protected Materials, including those filed under seal directly
7 to defense counsel to comply with the government's discovery obligations, and/or to a
8 Coordinating Discovery Attorney, should one be appointed. Possession of copies of
9 Protected Material is limited to attorneys of record, their office staff, investigators,
10 paralegals, assistants, and law clerks, as well as necessary third-party vendors,
11 consultants, and/or experts (hereinafter collectively referred to as "members of the
12 defense team"). At all times, third-parties shall be subject to the terms of this order.
13 Further, the attorneys of record are required to make available, prior to disseminating any
14 copies of the Protected or Sensitive Materials to members of the defense team, a copy of
15 this Protective Order to members of the defense team.

16 **4. Restrictions on use with Artificial Intelligence Tools.** The Protected
17 Material shall not be loaded into an artificial intelligence (AI) tool or model, generative
18 or not, where rights to the data are retained by any party that has not explicitly agreed to
19 be covered by the protective order.

20 **5. Review of Protected Material by Defendant.** The attorney(s) of record
21 and members of the defense team may share and review the Protected Material with
22 Defendant. If Defendant is in custody at the Federal Detention Center (FDC), he/she will
23 be permitted to review the Protected Material, consistent with the regulations established
24 by the BOP, with or without counsel, in a controlled environment at the Federal
25 Detention Center (FDC), but will be prohibited from printing out, copying,
26 disseminating, or otherwise retaining the discovery. If Defendant is on pretrial release,
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1 he/she will be permitted to review the Protected Material at the offices of his/her counsel,
2 but will be prohibited from printing out, copying, or disseminating the discovery.

3 **6. Limits on Dissemination of Protected Materials.** The attorney(s) of
4 record and members of the defense team acknowledge that providing copies of the
5 Protected Material to Defendant and other persons is prohibited and agree not to
6 duplicate or provide copies of the Protected Material to Defendant and other persons.
7 Members of the defense team, defendants, and any others to whom disclosure of the
8 content of Protected Material may be necessary to assist with the preparation of the
9 defense, shall not disclose the Protected Material or its contents, other than as necessary
10 for the preparation of defenses at trial and in subsequent legal proceedings, if necessary.
11 This order does not limit employees of the United States Attorney's Office for the
12 Western District of Washington from disclosing the Protected Material to members of the
13 United States Attorney's Office, law enforcement agencies, witnesses, and the Court and
14 defense as necessary to comply with the government's discovery obligations.

15 **7. Future Production of Additional Protected Materials.** Additional types
16 of discovery items may be deemed by the parties to constitute Protected Material upon
17 agreement, or (if no agreement can be reached) by further order of the Court.

18 **8. No Waiver.** Nothing in this order should be construed as imposing any
19 substantive discovery obligations on the government that are different from those
20 imposed by case law and Rule 16 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

21 **9. Use of Protected Material in Court.** Any Protected or Sensitive Material
22 that is filed with the Court in connection with pre-trial motions, trial, or other matter
23 before this Court, shall be filed under seal and shall remain sealed until otherwise ordered
24 by this Court. This does not entitle either party to seal their filings as a matter of course.
25 The parties are required to comply in all respects with the relevant local and federal rules
26 of criminal procedure pertaining to the sealing of court documents. If the Protected
27 Material to be filed with the Court was designated as Protected solely because it contains

1 personal-identifying information, it may be filed publicly, provided it has been redacted
2 in compliance with Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 49.1 and Local Criminal Rule
3 49.1.

4 10. **Non-Termination.** The provisions of this Order shall not terminate at the
5 conclusion of this prosecution. Furthermore, after any judgment or disposition has
6 become final and there are no pending proceedings, challenges, appeals, or habeas
7 motions in the case, defense counsel shall destroy the Protected Materials. If defense
8 counsel finds that retention of the Protected Materials in their possession is necessary for
9 authorized reasons, such as professional or ethical obligations, defense counsel shall
10 retain the Protected Materials in their case file subject to the restrictions of this Order.

11 11. **Violation of Order.** Any person who willfully violates this order may be
12 held in contempt of court and may be subject to monetary or other sanctions as deemed
13 appropriate by this Court.

14 12. **Modification of Order.** Nothing in this Stipulation shall prevent any party
15 from seeking modification of this Protective Order or from objecting to discovery that it
16 believes to be otherwise improper. The parties agree that in the event that compliance
17 with this Order makes it difficult for defense counsel to adhere to their Sixth Amendment
18 obligations, or otherwise imposes an unworkable burden on counsel, defense counsel
19 shall bring any concerns about the terms of the Order to the attention of the government.
20 The parties shall then meet and confer with the intention of finding a mutually acceptable
21 solution. In the event that the parties cannot reach such a solution, defense counsel shall
22 have the right to bring any concerns about the scope or terms of the Order to the attention
23 of the Court by way of a motion.

24 13. **No Ruling on Discoverability or Admissibility.** This Protective Order
25 does not constitute a ruling on the question of whether any particular material is properly
26 discoverable or admissible and does not constitute any ruling on any potential objection
27 to the discoverability of any material.

1 14. **No Ruling on Timing of Production.** This Protective Order does not
2 require the Government to provide particular discovery at a time or in a fashion
3 inconsistent with applicable law.

4 15. **Addition of Defendants after Entry of Order.** This Protective Order will
5 cover additional Defendants in this case so long as they agree to be bound by the terms of
6 this Protective Order and so indicate that consent by the execution of a supplemental
7 stipulation, which shall be filed as an addendum or supplement to this Protective Order.

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9 The Clerk of the Court is directed to provide a filed copy of this Protective Order to
10 all counsel of record.

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12 DATED this 14th day of February, 2025.

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14 
15 JOHN H. CHUN
16 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE